



# The MVEer Monthly

January, 2017

## MVE Installation Banquet on Saturday, January 7, 2017

Saturday January 7, 2017. Klemmer's Banquet Center, at  
10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53227

Cocktails at 6PM Dinner at 7PM Awards at 8PM

\$28 per person

Dinner includes choice of Filet Mignon or Salmon Filet, garden salad, potato, vegetable, rolls, ice cream and beverage.



## Why do we have Installation? – Dick Marcus

Each year in the fall our Chapter elects officers to serve in the ensuing year. Our Installation does just that, it recognizes our brothers in song who will serve us. We also agree in the installation to have them direct, instruct, teach, and shape us into the chorus we know we are and can be.

But we do more than elect officers. We also recognize those who have done extra work, by being exemplary in service, song, and dedication. The most coveted award is the **BOTY**, *Barbershopper of the Year*, which are decided by the past "Bow Tie" winners. The BOTY receives both a plaque and a mug. All of the past Bow Tie winners at the Installation greet their newest inductee into this special status.

Other popular awards are the **Rookie of the Year** and the **Russell A Foris Director's Award**, both given by our Director, **Josh Umhoefer**. We've sometimes given awards for the **Volunteer** or **Volunteers of the Year** that can extend to our wide group of friends and family members who generously give their time to the MVE. A special oil can is given to the **Do It Award Winner**, who just seems to be there to "do it" whenever and whatever is needed to be done, which is decided by last year's Do It winner (Jim Ansay in 2015).

Come to the beautiful and delicious dinner at Klemmer's Banquet Hall and come to join in our annual festivities of installation. Reconnect with our wide MVE family and friends, reflect on our past, and begin to look forward to 2017 and beyond.



### **Your Chapter Officers for 2017 are:**

- Steve Johnson** - President
- Jim Schmidt** - Immediate Past President
- Jim Ansay** - Secretary
- Bob Bartkowiak** - Treasurer
- Harry Hanson** - Music VP
- Jake Umhoefer** - Marketing VP
- Derek Balke** - Membership VP
- Clint Dodds** - Member At Large
- Tom Weber** - Member At Large
- Cody Whitlock** - Member At Large

### **Awards to be given at the Jan 7, 2017 Banquet:**

- Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY)
- Rookie of the Year
- Volunteers of the Year
- The President's Award
- The Do It Award
- The Russell A Foris Director's Award

### **List of Past Bow Tie (BOTY) Winners by Year** – Jake Umhoefer (BOTY for 2015)

There have been twenty-seven Barbershoppers of the Year presented, a few of which are multiple award winners. This year will be the 28<sup>th</sup>. The B.O.T.Y. Plaque was first presented to the MVE by Bill Kilbourne in 1996. As our list swelled, a

larger replacement plaque was provided by Matt Nagel in 2013. Here are our BOTY winners and their year:

Harry Hanson, 1989	Chris Carlson, 2002
Bill Kilbourne, 1990	Harry Hanson, 2003 (two time winner)
Dave Speidel, 1991	Jim LaBelle, 2005
Peter Little, 1992	Dan Fenske, 2006
Jim Franklin, 1993	Rich Kirwin, 2007
Mike Lietke, 1994	Josh Umhoefer, 2008
Bob Krantz, 1995	Tim Zielke, 2009
Chuck Crary, 1996	Scott Ganswindt, 2010
Tom Weber, 1997	Steve Johnson, 2011
Mike Lietke, 1997 (two time winner)	Matt Nagel, 2012
Russ Foris, 1999	Jim Schmidt, 2013
Larry Hanson, 2000	Tim Zielke, 2014 (two time winner)
Brad Charles, 2001	Jake Umhoefer, 2015

The "next *Bow Tie* goes to..." we will learn on installation dinner and awards night.

### **A Few MVE Highlights from 2016** – Dick Marcus

Each year has new experiences and opportunities. A group of 28 sang in our first ever **St. Ann Center Talent Show** held at the Turner Hall Ballroom.

We had a wide and excellent assortment of coaches for our performance and singing this year including **Jeremy Conover, Cindy Hansen-Ellis, James Estes, David Wright**, as well as **Steve Scott** and **Rob Mance** who also gave individual and quartet singing lessons.

One special highlight for me was the **Acapocalypse Youth Concert** held at Port Washington High School. The crowd went wild when we began lying down on stage as if asleep only to wake up singing Calypso.

The chorus was rather inventive this year as we converted our usual Spring Show in an auditorium into a new event: **Dinner and a Show** at the Oak Creek Community. The change transformed a typically break-even Spring Show into a money maker!

Some of our quartets competed in the **Division Contest** in Manitowoc in May. But the really big event in 2016 was our appearance on stage at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville in early July at the **Barbershop Harmony Society International Contest**. We earned some of the best scores in the Singing Category ever. **Midnight Croon** competed as well in the International Quartet Contest.

We had many first-timers on the International stage: **Steve Christianson, John Donehower, Nick Ganswindt, Brian Lynch, Nate Peplinski, Brian Plehn, John Purvis, Symte Smithlin, Robb Theil, Tom Rogina, Jim and Stephen Vandenberg.**

We had several guest night activities including 12 who visited in February and a bunch of **Kids from Wisconsin** during the Wisconsin State Fair in August.

There was a highly successful **Golf Outing** (16 strong) in September headed up by Bob Krantz. October was our **Appleton LO'L District Contest** where we came in second and earned a spot to go to Las Vegas in July as a wild card.

December brought us a pair of **Christmas in Technicolor** shows as well as trips to the **VA Hospital** and the **Ronald McDonald House** to wind up our year by helping others by *Storytelling through Song*.

### **Singing in Recent Films** – Dick Marcus

While musicals have perennially been huge successes in the movies as well as on Broadway, two recent films featured singing.

One that is in theaters right now happens to be animated. It has the perfect word for this column: **Sing**, and is rated PG due to some rude humor. With the successes of TV shows like **American Idol** and **The Voice** and even movie success of an *A Capella* contest in **Pitch Perfect**, we now enter a world of singing animals. A koala impresario stages a grand singing competition for the world's animals in order to save his failing but theater. *Rotten Tomatoes* gives it a 69% critics rating and a 75% audience rating. Those that criticized it said it didn't live up to **Zootopia** or the **Secret Life of Pets**, other animal-comedies, but fans say, "When **Sing** finished, I noticed something I don't notice often at the movies anymore. The full audience began to applaud and stand for the film even before the credits began. It was a lovely moment and shows how much the film connected with its audience."



The other recent film to treat singing is **Florence Foster Jenkins**, based on a real character that died in 1944, most say from a many-decade battle with syphilis. **Meryl Streep** embodies this person, who was an opera fan but with a tin ear

to her own singing. **Ms. Streep** is widely thought to be a shoo-in for her 20<sup>th</sup> Academy Award nomination.

We've all heard the question, "**How do you get to Carnegie Hall?**" The answer always is, "Practice, practice, practice." Well, with the help of a second husband (**Hugh Grant**) with a hard-to-believe name of **St. Clair Bayfield**, an illegitimate son of some British peer, she gets to Carnegie Hall by St. Clair "paying" people in to attend. So, there is apparently more than one way to get to Carnegie Hall after all. Mr. Bayfield isn't a faithful husband, and everyone knows it but Florence.

Actually, my favorite character in the story is the sexually ambiguous accompanist **Cosmé McMoon** played by **Simon Helberg**, who we know as Howard in the *Big Bang Theory*. He is paid to practice with Florence, and though appalled by her sound, he goes along with the charade since it pays his bills. This movie came out in August, so it is likely to be available on all sorts of free venues. (I saw it on the plane ride to New York this past week).

## **January 2017 Calendar**

Monday, January 2 => **No Practice**

Saturday, January 7, 6pm **Installation Banquet** and Awards at Klemmer's Banquet

Monday, January 9, First Practice for 2017, 7:15pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Tuesday, January 10, **Board Meeting**, 7pm at St. Luke's

Monday, January 16, Practice, 7:15pm at St. Luke's

Monday, January 23, Practice, 7:15pm at St. Luke's

Monday, January 30, Practice, 7:15pm at St. Luke's



## **Four Humorous Questions**

The following question was asked at a lengthy board meeting. "Is this a talking society or a singing society?"

I recall telling an audience how much our quartet really loved singing barbershop. They shouted "*You Always Hurt the One You Love.*" I'm glad they requested that tune; we too thought it was one of our better ones.

Q: Dad, why do singers rock left and right while performing? A: Because son, it is more difficult to hit a moving target.

Q: Mom, why do you stand by the window when I sing? A: I don't want the neighbors to think I use corporal punishment, dear.